

a species which seems to be common in India and some other parts of Asia.)

ROLAND M. HARPER.

REVIEWS

Young's Catalogue d' Arbres Arbustes et Plantes Herbacees d' Amerique*

According to Mr. Rhoads this is the "earliest published book written by an American botanist and devoted exclusively to American botany, horticulture and floriculture," and it "has been either purposely ignored or entirely overlooked by scientists, historians and bibliographers." The former statement is more true than significant as Cadwallader Colden (1749-1751) and Peter Kalm (1753-1761), both botanists of note, had previously drawn attention to our flora, while horticulture and floriculture had received a good deal of printed notice as early as 1670 in the writings of Daniel Denton of Hempstead, L. I., and later in the catalogs of Prince's nursery, a collection so valuable that the invading British issued a special order, during their occupation of New York, that the "nurseries of Mr. Prince of Flushing are not to be destroyed" (order of J. Robinson, English officer at New York, 16 June, 1780). That the book which Mr. Rhoads has edited is of unquestioned interest no one can deny, but that it adds anything to our existing knowledge of the botany or horticulture of the latter part of the eighteenth century, the citations above would seem to disprove.

The catalog is most interesting as showing the ideas of our flora as understood at that time. Many common species, apparently under Linnaean names, are scattered through it, but without hazarding a definite prophecy it looks also as though those gifted with a talent for "nailing" earliest publication of names for American species, have been furnished with some highly charged ammunition. The editor evidently tries to wash his

* William Young, Jr. (of Philadelphia), "Botaniste de Pensylvanie," and his long-forgotten book, being a facsimile reprint of his "Catalogue d' Arbres Arbustes et Plantes Herbacees d' Amerique." Published in Paris in 1783. With prefatory account of the author and critical notes by the editor, Samuel N. Rhoads. Pp. i-ix + 1-55. Large paper, 4to, \$4.00. Small paper, 8vo, \$2.75. Privately printed. Philadelphia, 1916.

hands of the whole matter by a statement in the preface that the names are mostly *nomina nuda*, and consequently disdains any responsibility for trying "to shake the very foundations of botanic priority." If *nomina nuda* can be construed to mean names accompanied by from three to six lines of description, Mr. Rhoads is right. But Muhlenberg's catalog pretty effectually disposes of such a claim. On this score the editor has done botanical science either a great service or a great injury in unearthing a book that has almost inflammable possibilities.

N. T.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Botanical Society of America will hold its eleventh annual meeting at New York City during the week beginning December 25, 1916, in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Naturalists, the American Phytopathological Society, and the Ecological Society of America, and under the auspices of Columbia University, New York University, the College of the City of New York, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the other scientific and educational institutions of the city. Members of the Torrey club are invited to attend any of the meetings scheduled below. The hotel headquarters of the Society will be the Hotel McAlpin, Broadway at 34th St. The hotel headquarters of the Ecological Society of America will be at the Hotel Belmont.

PROGRAM OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 26.

8:00 p. m. (Address of the retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Wm. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory. Reception to the members of the A. A. A. S., at the American Museum of Natural History.)

Wednesday, December 27.

10:00 a. m. Simultaneous scientific sessions of the society at large, for papers on cytology, embryology, mor-